FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 JUNE 1983

PLO

Eight people were killed and 17 others were wounded during a 4 June armed clash between Fatah dissidents and loyalists near Ba'labakk in eastern Lebanon, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The fighting ended after the Syrians gave the warring factions a cease-fire ultimatum and after Palestinian civilians from a nearby refugee camp staged a protest demonstration. The clash had erupted when the loyalists failed to persuade the dissidents to remove an artillery position commanding the Ba'labakk-Shtawrah road, the radio said.

PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir subsequently told journalists in Shtawrah that Fatah is still trying to resolve the dispute within its ranks through peaceful means and that the fate of the dissidents will be decided at the forthcoming Fatah Central Council and Revolutionary Council meetings, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Although Al-Wazir held the dissidents responsible for the clashes near Ba'labakk, the rebel group issued a statement blaming forces loyal to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for shelling its positions and claiming that its fighters were ordered not to return the fire, according to JANA.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat visited Bucharest, Algiers, and Jiddah for talks with Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio and SPA. Commenting on the Al-Biqa' clash in a statement in Algiers reported by APS, the PLO leader deplored the "unfortunate attempt, backed up, financed, and assisted by certain countries and Arab special services." Citing WAFA, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported that 'Arafat recently received a message from CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov stressing the need for PLO unity under its legitimate leadership headed by 'Arafat. Earlier, the Fatah delegation led by Central Committee member Salah Khalaf held further talks with Soviet officials in Moscow, Baghdad Voice of PLO noted.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad held talks on the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East with visiting Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, Damascus radio reported. During the discussions, which began on 5 June, Bendjedid stressed Algeria's support for Syria in its struggle against "hostile schemes and plots" and in confronting the designs of Israel and its allies, the radio said. Earlier, after holding talks with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, President al-Asad indicated that Klibi had voiced support for Syria's opposition to the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, according to remarks carried by SANA. Anyone who believes that Syria will accept the agreement must be "out of his mind," the Syrian leader added. Al-Asad also received a message from Soviet leader Andropov, according to Damascus radio. The intensive diplomatic activity in Damascus over the weekend was closely connected with the Israeli-Lebanese agreement and the current crisis within Fatah, Radio Monte Carlo reported citing diplomatic sources in the Syrian capital.

In separate developments, AFP and MENA cited an *Ash-Sharq Al-Awsat* report that because of last-minute differences between Al-Asad and Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi during their recent talks in Tripoli, the two men deferred a planned declaration of Syrian-Libyan union and Al-Asad left Libya without achieving definite results. Another London-based Arab publication, the magazine *Al-Majallah*, reported that Syria has acceded to Soviet requests that it cease supplying Iran with Soviet-made weapons and that it receive fugitive members of the banned Iranian Tudeh Party, according to Radio Monte Carlo.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince 'Abdallah held talks with Libyan and Syrian leaders over the weekend in the course of a brief tour of Arab countries that is expected to also take him to Iraq and Jordan. Riyadh radio commentaries on 5 June viewed the tour as a resumption of active Saudi efforts to "purify" the Arab atmosphere, call attention to Arab responsibilities, and hold consultations on finding an Arab formula to deal with the current situation in the region. An earlier Radio Monte Carlo report said "informed" sources in Riyadh believe the Kingdom seeks to convince Libya to abandon support for the Fatah rebels and back the Lebanese Government's efforts to extend its sovereignty over all of the country. In Damascus and Baghdad, the sources said, the Crown Prince would seek to revive the Saudi initiative to bring about reconciliation, while his talks with Jordan's King Husayn are expected to focus on the future of Palestinian-Jordanian relations and the need to resume the dialogue between the two sides. According to a 4 June WAKH report, the Saudi efforts are designed to create an atmosphere suitable for holding a tripartite summit in Riyadh, which will include King Fahd, Syrian President Al-Asad, and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, to pave the the way for subsequent bilateral talks between the Syrian and Lebanese leaders.

The crown prince delivered a letter from King Fahd to Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi calling for "joint action to rescue the Arab nation," JANA reported on 4 June. Subsequent SPA reports said the Libyan leader welcomed the Kingdom's efforts on behalf of Arab unity and considered it a "good fraternal initiative." Another SPA report quoted Libya's Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud as saying he attached "great importance" to the visit and hoped that it would be a turning point in the relations between the two countries. In Damascus the crown prince met with Syrian President al-Asad with whom he discussed the "situation in the region and issues of mutual interest," according to Damascus radio.

Lebanon

Shooting of Libyan Charge — 'Abd al-Qadir Ghuqah, the charge d'affaires of the Libyan brotherhood bureau in Beirut, was shot and seriously wounded on 5 June by an assassin who was subsequently arrested by security forces, Beirut radio reported. The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon from Foreigners claimed responsibility, according to AFP. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon asserted, however, that Ghuqah recently refused a summons to return to Libya and asked Lebanon for political asylum. Monitored Libyan media have thus far not reported the assassination attempt.

Salim visit to Saudi Arabia — There is full agreement on ideas and views between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, Foreign Minister Elie Salim announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio on his return to Lebanon after holding talks in Riyadh with Saudi King Fahd. According to Radio Monte Carlo, Fahd stressed the Kingdom's readiness to continue its contacts with Syria to secure the withdrawal of Syrian forces.

Exchanges of Fire — Syrian and Israeli forces exchanged fire in the Al-Biqa' valley on 4 June, according to Jerusalem and Voice of Lebanon radios.

Israel

Military Policy — Israel is "willing to bomb any nuclear reactor for military purposes built by the Arabs," Defense Minister Moshe Arens told his French counterpart Charles Hernu during their recent meeting in Paris. In his remarks, which were reported by DAVAR, Arens informed Hernu that Israel would not hesitate to launch a preemptive strike in order to prevent the Arabs from being equipped with nuclear weapons by France or any other country. Regarding Israel's deployment in Lebanon, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi said tension between the IDF and Syria may persist throughout the summer, Jerusalem radio reported. The deputy commander of the Israeli Air Force subsequently warned that if the SAM-5's in Syria are activated against Israeli planes, Israel will have a response to them that will have "strategic significance," according to the radio.

Peace Now Rally — The Peace Now group organized a large rally in Tel Aviv calling for the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon, ITIM reported on 4 June.

Egypt

While Egypt hopes that it will soon be able to return its envoy to Israel, it cannot do so until Israel, at the very least, begins toimplement its agreement with Lebanon, Jerusalem radio quoted Egyptian Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali as saying on 3 June.

Iraq

An atmosphere of "deep understanding and true fraternity" characterized the talks held between President Saddam Husayn and visiting Jordanian King Husayn, INA reported on 4 June. The talks in Baghdad dealt with bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the war with Iran. King Husayn reiterated Jordan's "unwavering" support for Iraq in its struggle, INA added.

Pakistan

A "cordial" atmosphere reflecting a "constructive and positive" attitude characterized the first meeting of the Pakistan-India joint commission in Islamabad, according to Karachi radio on 4 June. Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan and his Indian counterpart, Narashima Rao, expressed confidence that the work of the commission would strengthen mutual understanding and promote cooperation between the two countries. The two sides agreed to improve telecommunications and adopt measures to facilitate travel between the two countries.

Afghanistan

Geneva Talks — The indirect talks on Afghanistan among Pakistan, the USSR, and the DRA are "slow and difficult" Pakistani Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan said, according to a 4 June AFP report. Speaking at an Islamabad press conference following a meeting of the Indian-Pakistani joint commission, Yaqub Khan said that while "some progress" has been made, the talks in Geneva are "far from agreement" on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

French Doctor To Be Released — The French doctor who was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment by the DRA Government for "collaborating" with Afghan insurgents will be released, AFP reported on 3 June. DRA diplomatic officials in Paris said the doctor was pardoned as a "gesture of good will" toward the French people.

Insurgent Activity — Nearly 90 DRA Government troops were killed and more than 50 captured in an insurgent attack on a large military post in Faryab Province, SPA reported on 5 June citing the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY. The insurgents also shot down a helicopter in Balkh Province killing its three-member crew, the report added.

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Reportage on Recent Mujahidin Activities

Soviet Convoy Ambushed

BK031608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, the Afghan mujahidin are reported to have ambushed a Soviet-Karmal military convoy in Ghazni Province and damaged a number of tanks and armored vehicles. Another report said that the mujahidin crushed an attack by the Soviet-Karmal forces in a village of (?Konarha) Province. On the following day, the Soviet-Karmal forces carried out heavy bombing in the area, killing a number of civilians and damaging many houses.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department said that evidence indicates that the Soviet Union is using deadly toxic elements in Afghanistan.

Military Post Attacked

LD052016 Riyadh SPA in English 1908 GMT 5 Jun 83

[Text] Islamabad, June 5 SPA — Nearly 90 Afghan Government troopswere killed and more than 50 captured in a daring attack by the mujahideen on a large military post at (Juma Bzar)in Afghanistan's north-western Faryab Province on May 28, Afghan ISLAMIC PRESS AGENCY reported here today.

The agency said more than 500 mujahideen attacked the military post which normally housed 300 Afghan Government soldiers and militiamen. The mujahideen have also destroyed four tanks and a wireless truck and captured over 200 Kalashnikov assault rifles.

The agency said eight mujahideen were killed and 10 injured during the attack on the military post.

It added that 52 communist militiamen defected to the mujahideen side in (Gadai Qala), 10 km north-west of (Maimsanah).

The agency said a helicopter was also shot down by the mujahideen near Mazar-e Sharif airport in Balkh Province, killing its three-member crew.

Successes Cited

BK060656 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Jun 83

[Text] According to reports, Afghan mujahidin captured a big frontier post in the (Juma Bazaar) area of the Faryab Province last week and killed and arrested many Soviet and Karmal administration troops. The reports say that the mujahidin also shot down three military helicopters in Baghlan Province and destroyed many tanks. Mujahidin also shot down a helicopter near Mazar-e Sharif airport in Balkh Province. The mujahidin also attacked a district jail and military post in Qandahar and killed many Soviet-Karmal troops.

Mujahidin Commander Killed

BK060811 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 6 Jun 83

[Text] In Afghanistan, Soviet-Karmal troops launched a major offensive in Faryab. Mujahidin, however, successfully repulsed the offensive and killed 20 Soviet-Karmal troops. A commander of the mujahidin, (Abdullah Jan), was martyred in the fighting. Details of the fighting are awaited.

In Gazni Province, the Afghan Mujahidin attacked a Soviet-Karmal troop convoy and killed three officers and many more troops.

Radio Kabul has also reported three clashes in the northern and southern provinces of [name indistinct] and Parwan of the Afghan capital.

Security Forces Crush 'Counterrevolutionaries'

LD051630 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jun 83

[Text] A group of counterrevolutionary elements, who were endangering the normal life of the working people of (Fatehsang) and Zarghun Shahr regions of Lowgar Province, have been recently crushed by the officers and troops of the sarandoy and operational battalion command of Lowgar Province, together with their leaders, (Abdol Ghafar) and [name indistinct]. Several more of these rebels under the leadership of Engineer (Ebrahim) were captured.

A source in the Lowgar Province security forces said that 12 assorted weapons, 2 rocket launchers, and a large quantity of ammunition, documents, and evidence, which prove their links with outside counterrevolutionary bands, were seized from these criminals.

Rao Describes Pakistan Visit as Successful

BK0416I9 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jun 83

[Text] On his return to New Delhi this afternoon, Mr Rao said the efforts made by the joint commission were very successful.He told newsmen that the commission has come up with several useful recommendations. He expressed happiness that there has been agreement on cooperation in several matters like trade, but the progress was not as much as they would have liked. He was confident that the matter will be gone into further.

Mr Rao denied that there was any discussion between him and the Pakistan foreign minister on the reported desire of Pakistan to join the Commonwealth. He said only bilateral matters were discussed.

Akali Leader Admits Meeting Pakistani Officials

BK050948 Hong Kong AFP in English 0941 GMT 5 Jun 83

[Text] New Delhi, June 5 (AFP) — A Sikh Akali Party leader has admitted that Akali leaders have met with Pakistani officials, but he denied receiving aid from Pakistan for a campaign led by the party in Punjab, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported today.

Harchand Singh Longowal told journalists in his Amritsar City headquarters yesterday that allegations that he was receiving foreign support were only "as true as the assurances the federal government has given us and failed to fulfill," PTI said.

Mr Longowal, who heads the largest faction of the Akali Dal, said his party's talks with Pakistani officials concerned only the improvement of gurudwaras (Sikh temples) in Pakistan.

The Sikh leader also said that his party had lost faith in discussions with New Delhi on demands that the Akali Party has made during the 19 months of their sometimes violent campaign, noting that earlier talks had failed.

His remarks were at variance with a statement made Friday by the federal government that it had received a "positive" response from Mr Longowal to the government's invitation to hold talks on the Sikh demands.

The Akalis have a list of 43 religious and political demands. Several religious concessions have already been granted by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, excepting one major demand that a status similar to that of the Vatican be given to Amritsar, holy city to Sikhs because of its 16th century Golden Temple.

Gandhi Returns to Delhi From Jammu-Kashmir

BK031611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Text] Mrs Gandhi has said separatist tendencies will not be tolerated and the integrity of the country will be maintained at all cost. Addressing meetings in Jammu and Kashmir today, she said agitations and violence weaken the country and retard its progress.

Referring to the Punjab situation, Mrs Gandhi said that the Akalis were in power in the state and also partner in the central government for over 3 years. During this time, they never raised any demand. The center has accepted some of their demands, which it could fulfill on its own. About other demands, the concerned state governments and the opposition parties are to be consulted, she added.

Referring to the center-state relations, Mrs Gandhi said states can be strong only when the center is strong.

Mrs Gandhi has since returned to New Delhi.

Polling Ends in Jammu, Kashmir Elections

BK051330 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Jun 83

[Text] Moderate to heavy polling was reported in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections and the two Lok Sabha by-elections from Srinagar and Baramula. The polling, which ended at 1630 this evening, was by and large peaceful. There are, however, reports of clashes in some areas.

A spokesman of the Election Commission told our correspondent in New Delhi that, according to the state government, attempts of booth-capturing in two constituencies in the Kashmir Valley were foiled by the police. In the valley, there has been heavy polling in all the 42 constituencies. A team of the All India Radio correspondents, who went round over 35 constituencies, reports that voters had collected in large numbers outside the polling booths much before it [as heard] began in the morning. By afternoon, over 60 percent of the electorates had cast their votes.

Polling in Leh was peaceful. According to the central observer for Ladakh, there was no law and order problem in any of the two constituencies in the region. The All India Radio correspondent reports from Jammu that the polling was moderate to heavy in the Jammu Division. It was brisk at many places where one vote a minute was the general rate of polling. The central observer for the region went round various polling booths and met the representatives of political parties, voters, and polling officials.

Our correspondent says that Pakistanis were watching from across the border when the polling was in progress in (Puchetgarh) village on the Indo-Pakistan border. More than 70 percent of voters had cast their votes well before noon in this village.

Counting of votes in the 56 constituencies will be taken up tomorrow. Of these, 42 constituencies are in the Kashmir Valley, 11 in Jammu District, and 3 in Rajaori District. Counting of votes for the two Lok Sabha by-elections will also be held tomorrow.

Brisk polling with a moderate turn out was reported in the five assembly constituencies in three other states where by-elections were held today. The constituencies are Jadavpur and Garden Reach in West Bengal, Chandli in Bihar, and Dausa and Pindwara in Rajasthan.

While voting was generally peaceful, police opened fire to disperse a violent mob outside a booth in Chandlee constituency. One person was injured. In West Bengal and Rajasthan, polling was reported to be absolutely peaceful. According to an Election Commission spokesman in New Delhi, in Chandli, where electronic voting machines were used, counting of votes will begin this evening and the result is expected tonight itself.

AFP Cites Violence

BK051339 Hong Kong Afp in English 1329 GMT 5 Jun 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 5 (AFP) — Violence marred today's elections in Jammu and Kasmir State when at least 27 Congress (I) Party workers were injured, seven of them seriously, in four clashes in Rajouri and Poonch District, Jammu region, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported.

The UNITED NEWS OF INDIA agency (UNI) reported that police opened fire in Chadura town, Kashmir region, to disperse two warring groups of workers of the ruling National Conference Party. No one was injured, UNI added.

PTI said that two incidents at Bafliaz and Potha, in Jammu, were sparked off when National Conference supporters allegedly prevented some Congress (I) workers from casting their votes. Batons and stones were used in the clashes.

An unspecified number of people were injured in another clash at Nadi, also in Jammu, in which police used batons to disperse fighting National Conference and Congress (I) workers, PTI said.

Voters lined up from early morning before some 5,100 polling kiosks across the strategic state to cast ballots for the 76-seat Jammu and Kashmir state legislature and two parliamentary vacancies, Indian news agencies and the state-run All-India Radio Reported.

AFP Reports Preliminary Results

BK061134 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 6 Jun 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, June 6 (AFP) — The ruling National Conference took an early lead in violence-marred elections, winning the first three seats announced for the 76-member assembly in the strategic state of Jammu and Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported here. PTI, giving the first full result of yesterday's polling, said that the state's law minister, P.L. Handoo, won in the Pahammed Tahir by 5,659 votes.

Pahalgam and the two other National Conference victories announced are in Kashmir. Earlier reports from Srinagar, the state capital, said that the party had registered an early lead in eight constituencies in the Kashmir region. However Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party, which is making a determined effort to capture power in the state assembly, was leading in four constituencies there. The Congress had also established an initial lead in all the constituencies in the Jammu region where counting began this morning, the report said.

The polling was marred by violence and a new poll was ordered in two constituencies following the seizure yesterday of polling stations by militants.

Three Killed in West Bengal Election Violence

BK031604 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Text] In West Bengal, the Communist Party of India-Marxist has established an absolute majority in the panchayat [local body] election. Out of the 46,000 gram panchayat [village local body] seats, the party has captured 23,993 seats. Of the 44,456 seats, the results of which have been declared so far, Congress-I got 14,416.

Meanwhile, three more persons are reported killed in the post panchayat election clashes in Malda and Bankura Districts. The state panchayat minister, Mr Benoy Chowdhury, in an appeal has requested all sections of people, including political party workers, to maintain peace.

'Stern Measures' Urged

BK060705 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Jun 83

[Text] West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has asked the district authorities to take stern measures against the recurrence of violent incidents in the wake of the recent panchayat elections in the state. He was talking to newsmen in Calcutta. According to official sources, 11 persons were killed and many others were injured in a clash which took place following the panchayat elections held on the 31st of last month. The state Congress-I president, Ananda Gopal Mukherjee, met the chief minister and urged him to take appropriate steps to prevent clashes.

Congress-I Candidate Loses in Bihar By-election

BK060711 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Jun 83

[Text] In Bihar, the Janata Party has won the Chandi assembly by-election. According to the election office control room in Patna, the Janata Party candidate, (Hari Narain Singh), defeated his nearest Congress-I rival, Anil Kumar, by a margin of over 7,700 votes. There were in all 12 candidates in the fray including the Bharatiya Janata Party. Our Patna correspondent reports that the Janata Party candidate was supported by the Communist Party of India-Marxist, Communist Party of India, Congress-S, and the Democratic Socialist Party. The vacancy was caused by the death of Ramraj Prasad Singh, a Congress-I member of the legislative assembly. Our correspondent adds that electronic voting machines were used for the first time in Bihar.

India's Rao Attends Joint Commission Meeting

'Cordial Atmosphere' at Sessions

BK041043 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 4 Jun 83

[Text] The first meeting of the Pakistan-India Joint Commission ended in Islamabad today with agreement on a number of proposals and recommendations for cooperation in important areas for the benefit of the people of the two countries. These recommendations were formulated by four subcommissions at their working sessions over the last 3 days in a cordial atmosphere reflecting a constructive and positive attitude. It was realized that confidence building was a continuous process and that some of the proposals discussed at the first meeting would require further examination and negotiation.

They decided to improve the existing telecommunication facilities and install a broadband coaxial cable system between Labore and Amritsar on priority basis. The two sides agreed on reduction of postal charges. Agreement was also reached on a number of measures to facilitate travel between the two countries.

The two foreign ministers — Sahabzada Yaqub Khan of Pakistan and Mr Narasimha Rao of India — who signed the report of the first meeting of the joint commission, expressed the confidence that the commission would facilitate the strengthening of mutual understanding and the promotion of cooperation between the two countries. It was agreed that the next meeting of the joint commission would be held in India next year.

Meanwhile, the four subcommissions would be meeting from time to time.

The report said in addition to the deliberations of the joint commission, the two foreign ministers also exchanged views on a number of subjects of common interest. They reiterated commitment of their governments to hold further discussions at an early mutually agreed date on Pakistan's offer for an agreement on nonaggression and nonuse of force and India's proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

The Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, addressing the concluding session, said the recommendations submitted by the subcommissions provided a solid foundation on which the edifice of bilateral cooperation could be built in the years to come. He said it had been decided that the foreign secretaries should hold an early meeting to give further consideration to Pakistan's proposal for the conclusion of an agreement on nonaggression and nonuse of force and the Indian proposal for a treaty of peace, friendship and cooperation.

The Indian foreign minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, in his speech said that the implementation of the suggestions made by the four subcommissions would go a long way in generating goodwill and cooperative spirit between the two countries. These steps will benefit the common man in both countries.

Bilateral Ties Discussed

BK031209 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 2 Jun 83

[Excerpts] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, and the Indian external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, reviewed bilateral relations and other matters of mutual interest at their informal talks during the course of their brief visit to Murree today.

The two sides agreed to exchange delegations to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology. In the field of agriculture, the two sides agreed in principle that the agricultural research councils of the two countries would enter into an agreement for mutual cooperation. The two sides agreed that the existing telecommunications facilities would be improved and augmented by the addition of more channels.

At the meeting of the second subcommission, the two delegations reaffirmed the keen desire of both governments to expand bilateral trade. The third subcommission prepared for the consideration of the two governments an agreed program of cooperation in the fields of information, school education, higher education, archeology, museum, archives, literature, and sports. The two sides noted the obligation — that demands of them under the Simla agreement — which says both governments will take all steps within their power to prevent hostile propaganda directed against each other and that both countries will encourage dissemination of such information as would promote development of friendly relations between them. [sentence as heard] In light of this, they discussed what can be done in regard to press media, broadcast media, and electronic media.

The fourth subcommission discussed various proposals to improve the existing visa agreement and promotion of tourism. It also discussed matters relating to religious shrines and civilian detainees.

Islamabad Press Conference

BK041608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 83

[Excerpts] The first meeting of the Pakistan-India joint ministrial commission ended in Islamabad with agreement on a number of proposals and recommendations for promotion of cooperation in important areas for the benefit of the people of the two countries. These recommendations were formulated by four subcommissions at their working sessions over the last 3 days, reflecting a constructive and positive attitude.

Later, addressing a joint press conference, the Indian foreign minister said that the beginning of the joint commission has been very good and we do not believe that any difficulty in way of policy formulation, decisionmaking, and follow up action cannot be overcome.

Answering a question as to why Pakistan's proposal of a no-war pact and the Indian proposal of a treaty of peace, friendship, and cooperation were not considered in detail, he said: We have tackled the easy matters first to pave the way for the difficult

tasks. As the meeting of the joint commission paid its full attention to the matters dealt with by the subcommissions, it has been decided that these documents will be considered later at an appropriate time.

Answering a question about ending [word indistinct] propaganda by mass media against each other, he said the subcommission on information has stressed the need for effective implementation of the provisions of the Simla agreement. As far as both the governments are concerned, they will fully endeavor to see that institutions of mass media under their control adopt a responsible attitude.

Answering another question, he said his talks with his Pakistani counterpart provided him an opportunity to understand the Afghan issue better and know the facts in this connection.

The Pakistan foreign minister explained the process of indirect talks on Afghanistan in Geneva. About his recent visit to many countries in connection with a solution to the Afghanistan issue, he said these countries have expressed full cooperation with Pakistan for a final solution of this issue. He will leave for Moscow on Thursday for talks with the Soviet leaders in this connection.

Answering another question, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said that the persons involved in hijacking the Indian plane to Lahore will be brought to trial within a few weeks.

UN Afghan Talks Assessed

BK041610 Hong Kong AFP in English 1502 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Islamabad, June 4 (AFP) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan today described UN-sponsored indirect talks on Afghanistan as "slow and difficult" and ruled out the possibility of an immediate Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. "We are far from having reached a comprehensive settlement of the thorny problem", he said in a reference to the two rounds of talks held in Geneva since last year under the direction of Diego Cordovez, special emissary for UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The third round is resuming in Geneva on June 15, and the Pakistani minister will visit Moscow Thursday for discussions with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko on a negotiated solution to the problem.

Yaqub Khan last month visited major European capitals that, according to the UN Charter, are "responsible for peace and international stability", in a bid to brief them on the progress of the talks. "Some progress" has been made in Geneva, but the talks are far from agreement, he told reporters in a joint conference by Indian and Paksitani foreign ministers at the conclusion of the 4-day Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission meeting here.

The Pakistani foreign minister also said that nothing had been "decisively decided" on international guarantees or guarantors ensuring non-interference in Afghanistan. However, "one such guarantor is obviously the Soviet Union and the name of the United States has been mentioned by the other side", he said.

Soviet troop presence in Afghanistan, he said, was an additional element "creating tension" in the region and "inflames" the situation which was "inviting superpower rivalry potentially detrimental to stability". Implicitly rejecting Afghan Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kehstmand's suggestion of direct talks with Pakistan, the foreign minister said the Geneva talks had to be indirect because "we have not recognised the (President Babrak) Karmal regime which came to power through invasion by a superpower".

The invasion also led to the influx of three million Afghan refugees, with Pakistan sharing half of the 1.2 million dollar bill daily, he said. But Pakistan was "bearing this strain cheerfully", he added. Referring to Kabul's insistence on guarantees for non-intervention, he said "We are not interfering now and we have no intention to do so in the future".

On the possibility of including China and Iran in the list of guarantors he said the name of China had been suggested but that no decision had been taken so far on the possible number or names of guarantors who must be "acceptable to both sides".

Summer Military Exercises Held Near Abbottabad

BK051614 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Jun 83

[Text] The chairman of the joint chief of staff committee, General Mohammad Iqbal Khan, inspected the summer military exercises near Abbottabad today. The chief of the naval staff, Vice Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan; the vice chief of the air staff, Air Marshal Abdul Rashid Sheikh; and other senior officers of the three wings of the armed forces also observed the exercises. Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan spent the entire day at the exercise field and inspected the ground exercises. These exercises are being held to test the competence of the military units and their professional skill.

Ziaul Haq Recovering From Gallbladder Operation

Doctor's Satified With Progress

BK041612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jun 83

[Text] According to a press note issued by the Chief Martial Law Secretariat, President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who underwent a gallbladder operation, is feeling very much better now. The press note adds that doctors are satisfied with the progress with his recovery.

The press note says that the president walked around for a while in his hospital room and relaxed in a chair.

Health Reported 'Greatly Improved'

BK061525 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Jun 83

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq's health has greatly improved in the 5 days following his gallbladder operation last

Wednesday. A press note issued by the Chief Martial Law Secretariat in Rawalpindi today says that he is feeling much better now. According to doctors attending the president he has returned to a normal diet. The president also walks around twice a day in his room. The doctors are satisfied with the speed of his recovery.

Martial Law Opponents Begin 'Token Hunger Strike'
BK041633 Hong Kong AFP in English 1616 GMT 4 Jun 83

[Text] Islamabad, June 4 (AFP) — Lawyers opposing military rule in Pakistan today started a token hunger strike to press their demands for restoration of the Constitution, disbandment of military courts, release of detainees and restoration of the powers of the judiciary allegedly curtailed under the martial law.

At least two lawyers of each bar-association in most of the big cities started the protest strike in the court compounds. The hunger strikers will be replaced by their colleagues after every 24 hours and the protest will continue till Thursday, sources close to the lawyers said.

Meanwhile the country's opposition parties whose functioning has been banned under the martial law have announced their plans to launch a civil disobedience movement from August 15 — the country's Independence Day.

The movement is reportedly also to press the government to hold elections in the country and return of civilian rule.

Khomeyni Comments on Kurdish Problems

LD041406 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jun 83

[Speech by Ayatollah Khomeyni at 4 June meeting in Tehran with Majlis officials and deputies to mark Majlis Week; duration 44 minutes -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I thank the gentlemen who have troubled themselves to come here to discuss our problems. The Majlis today is dealing with certain problems which, I hope, will be solved so that in the next term of the Majlis the deputies will be free from such problems. The problem is that all the major powers of the world are against Iran. This is not a secret; they themselves confess to it. They say Iraq should not be defeated. But the issue is not Iraq or Saddam; they want to halt the spread of Islam. They are not feeling sorry for Saddam. Saddam, like any other human being -- that is, if we can call him a human being -- will eventually go. They are afraid of Iran and are seeking ways to defeat Iran. It does not matter how many times the U.S. President claims to be neutral. They keep saying they are neutral, but it is clear to everyone that they are not neutral. There is no need to confine ourselves to Iran, everyone in the world knows how neutral the U.S. President is on this issue. The same applies to the others, the Soviet Union, France, and other countries. It is not the issue of neutrality. The issue is that they want to support any regime that is against Islam. They want to crush Islam by any means possible. Thanks be to God that this Majlis, this nation, these revolution guards, and other organs of the country have stood against these affairs and are resisting.

God willing, when the imposed war is over and when we return to normality so that the Majlis can deal with the needs of the oppressed masses with care and patience, all our problems can be solved by the Majlis and the government. [shouts of God willing] Even the issue of high prices will be solved. We are all aware that today, price rises are astronomical and a group of people (?are taking advantage of it). But, compared with the sufferings of the prophet and his dear wife, these problems are negligible. You are the nation or the ummah of that great prophet, therefore, you should not complain that certain goods are scarce. There are limited supplies of certain goods, but not of essentials. There is an insufficient supply of the luxuries required by a certain group of people. Yes, there are high prices, but where in the world can you find low prices? High prices are not confined to our country; it is the same everywhere. If, God willing, the government gains more power, that is, when the war is over and we have returned to normality, with the efforts of the ever-present-on-the-scene nation of Iran, these problems will be solved. [shouts of God willing]

Among other important issues that I would like to deal with -- at least, in one aspect only; other aspects of this issue are not going to be discussed for the time being -- is the issue of Turkey's entry into Iraq to crush the Kurds. What I would like to talk about is this: The Kurds of Iran, Iraq, and Turkey are all the same Kurdish people. The only difference is that the majority of Iranian Kurds are in favor of the Islamic Republic and are against the few corrupt minigroups. Today, the Friday imams, the ulema, and the people all over Kordestan are in favor of the Islamic Republic. Those who commit acts of corruption are one or two groups of communists or some worse than communists. Why does the entire world's mass media show so much sensitivity about the Iranian Kurds only? The Kurds of the world are in favor of eliminating this gap but the world mass media always accuse Iran. [sentence as heard]

The issue is the way the mass media have treated the news of Turkey's entry into Iraq to crush the Kurds, with Iraq's cooperation. If this is true, this is the problem. You all know that they did not want their country to be (?in trouble). The question is this: Why the Iranian Kurds? If the world media are saying that the Kurds of Iraq and Turkey are separatists, well the corrupt ones among our Kurds are worse.

Why is the whole world putting all the emphasis on Iran and blaming Iran for killing the Kurds? Those corrupt individuals who are living abroad and are shedding crocodile tears for the Kurds of Iran, are they not also feeling sorry for the Kurds in Iraq and Turkey? They may only make a few remarks about the Kurds of Iraq and Turkey and then forget it all. These are the problems facing mankind. The world is full of such cases of injustice.

If no savior is found to save mankind — and I hope a savior will be found soon, God willing — or if the savior comes late then the issue of destruction of mankind will be accepted by all as a simple matter. I hope that the savior will be found soon and that God will send the great savior to save humanity. The oppressed and innocent masses are crushed underfoot all over the world and nowhere is there any talk about their fate.

In the United States, there are so many people being crushed and no one questions why this is happening. In the Soviet Union, too, many innocent people are crushed and no one talks about them. It is the same in this region: The regimes crush their own people and no one mentions it. They only refer to Iran as a country where the government creates suppression and where all its people are against their government. The world's mass media say that the people of Iran stage marches in the streets in support of the government only under the threat of bayonets. What is happening in the world? What can we call those who write such things? What name is suitable for those who are in charge of all these mass media and who order them to write these things in unison? Of what are their brains made? These are the problems our Islamic Republic has had to face since its foundation. Our Majlis, the government, and other authorities have had to face the same problems, too.

If all these problems were to be solved and if the world was to come to its senses and only tell the truth, then our task would become easy.

One wonders what the UN mission will report? I do not know what these gentlemen will say. They came and investigated the destruction in Iran and they went to Iraq later where they were shown a group of war wounded whom Iraq claims were injured during the bombing of civilian areas by Iran. One wonders what the mission will say. Perhaps, they will say that both Iran and Iraq are offenders and nothing else. Is there nothing else to say? They should really investigate the extent of destruction in Iran

and Iraq. Even while they were busy investigating, the Iraqis bombed Iran. This indicates that they were opposed to a visit by the mission. We are waiting to see what they have done, what they will do, and what they will say. I hope the members of the fact-finding mission will act with human conscience and report the truth. Those who later examine these reports should not bother to discover the views of the United States, or the Soviet Union, or France on this matter. The UN authorities should rule with justice and tell the truth as it is. We do not expect anything else from them. We only expect them to tell the truth.

I hope that our ever-present-on-the-scene people will remain on the scene. I hope they will not get tired of the war. War has always existed in Islam. From the time of the prophet, when the rule of Islam began, war accompanied it.

If the people are fair, then there will be no war. If the people were to become real human beings, then all wars would stop. But at a time when the majority of the people, the oppressed, are crushed; when the prestige of Islam and the Muslims are in danger; and when the honor of all our nation is endangered, then war is inevitable.

We did not start the war. Even now we are defending ourselves. We are pounded almost every day. Abadan is shelled every day. Other places are also bombed and shelled, as you are aware. We want to stay the hands of the aggressors and prevent them from attacking our nation. We are defending ourselves. But right from the start,we did not want war. We wanted peace everywhere. But how can we accept Saddam, who is an enemy of Islam? He was an enemy of Islam from the start. When I was in An-Najaf, I knew that they [as heard]were enemies of Islam. The late Ayatollah Hakim excommunicated them. They are blasphemous infidels. Would you accept us sitting round a table with them to negotiate peace and toreach a compromise? He might apologize at the negotiating table for his deeds, but would any humane and Islamic conscience accept this?

Our mothers and fathers sacrificed their youth; and the martyrs gave their blood to liberate Iran from the domination of the major powers. Thank God, we have reached the stage now when we can see the hands of the major powers removed. Is it right at this stage to retreat and reduce our demands? Should we withdraw our hands so that they can stretch out theirs? I tell you, if we retreat 1 step, they will advance 100 steps. We will stand firm against them until this man, who has created so much corruption in the region, is crushed and the others — those who made this evil man treat the people that way — are exposed to the world and [words indistinct]. They claim to be for peace and claim that their governments are pursuing peace. We know these people. None of them seeks peace. They are warmongers. They are living to annihilate each other with their weapons.

We want to prevent the return of the dragons to Iran. If, God forbid, they return, they will plunder your wealth, spread corruption, and corrupt your young men as they intended doing in the reigns of Reza Shah and Mohammad Reza Shah. If we are right and if we intend to implement justice in this land and, God willing, in other places, why should we be afraid of simple matters? Why should we fear the high price of fruit, for instance? Why should we be afraid if there is shortage of some goods? If anyone can remember, in previous wars famine destroyed people. Famine was the problem then, not high prices. Thank God, there is no famine now and the people have no anxiety about not finding food. We are also concerned about high prices — everybody is concerned about high prices. But what is the solution? What can we do?

Of course, we have plans and I hope, God willing, that they will be successful. May God help them to solve this problem too. I hope the Majlis and the Government will consult each other to find a solution to this problem of the nation, too. [shouts of God willing]

I beseech Almighty God to grant you all health, success, honor, and glory. May God have mercy upon the martyrs of 15th Khordad and other martyrs since 15th Khordad, all those martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Islam. May God give reward and patience to the families of these martyrs. I would like to ask the gentlemen to pray for the nation. May God bring defeat and humiliation to the enemies of Islam. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

Majlis Speaker Comments on Defense Council Session

LD031308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Text] The Supreme Defense Council met yesterday evening chaired by Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council.

Present in this session were: Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council; Prime Minister Musavi; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff, Mohsen Reza'i, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Colonel Salimi, defense minister, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati; and Mohsen Rafiqdust, minister of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. In the session, the situation on the fronts and the issues concerning the imposed war were reviewed. The Corps and military commanders submitted reports on the war developments to the session and decisions were made.

At the end of the session,the imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council gave an interview to our correspondent:

[Begin recording][Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani: At the end of the Supreme Defense Council's session, could you tell us what issues were raised in this session and what decisions were made?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We studied the situation on certain battlefronts and we heard reports from the army and Corps commanders; we also made some decisions. Some of the session's time was devoted to an issue which occurred recently on the northern borders of Iraq, that is, the entry of Turkey into Iraq. We also reached conclusions in this connection and we discussed the Iraqi POW's in Iran, and the issues concerning war propaganda and the visits made by international news centers to the damaged areas.

[Question] What is your analysis of the events taking place in north Iraq?

[Answer] Of course, it is a bizarre case. We have rarely seen such an important event simply being ignored in the world: a country's forces enter an independent country, which claims to have a lot of prestige, and there is talk about progress from 3 km to 30 km. Our general analysis is that either this is due to Iraq's devotion to foreign powers or to its intense weakness. Either the Iraqis were willing in this matter and knew everything from the beginning — in this case the question arises: How can one country's army permit another country's army to enter its territory for any reason — or they were not informed and they were unwilling. If they were unwilling, the question arises: How could it be that an army enters a country and occupies it but the country being occupied pretends to willingness in order to preserve its prestige? Either they are very weak and dare not protest and are afraid that they may be discredited or they are too weak — weaker than in the first hypothesis — and for the sake of maintaining their security have allowed another country's army to come and help them.

A more important issue here is: Why have two countries which are apparently attached to two opposite currents in the world — Turkey is a member of NATO and Iraq claims to be leftist and considers itself in the [word indistinct] camp and has cordial relations with the Soviets and so on — agreed to act like this in order to crush part of the popular forces? If they have not agreed, why did Turkey enter and Iraq not protest? It is either weakness, or intense devotion, or some other thing which we will have to wait to discover in the future. To sum up, it is a bizarre case. The Turks and the Iraqis must themselves explain this matter.

[Question] Could you give your analysis of the recent visits by agents of American policy in the region?

[Answer] Well, they want to take maximum advantage of this situation. They started this war and now they are supporting Iraq to continue it. They want to take advantage of the situation they have created by involving many of the region's countries in this war, either directly or indirectly. Their comings and goings, while involving many issues, are certainly linked to this war and the events in Lebanon; they are linked together like a chain. One thinks it is only the Islamic Republic which has frightened them; the superpowers are afraid that their interests may be lost; they try to counter the effect of the Islamic Revolution on future society or to restrict us in some way or other. In any case,their visits so far concern us; there are other issues to (?be raised elsewhere).

[Question] Were any decisions made in this session in connection with general war issues?

[Answer] Of course, there were decisions; but the same war issues still exist. We believe we cannot agree to any other end to the war than Iran's victory and the definite defeat of the Iraqi Ba'th Party. I do not think any end to the war that does not meet the conditions declared by us so far will be acceptable either to our nation or to our leader. Termination of the war must be beneficial to us, considering all the losses and martyrdoms we have sustained. [end recording]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Gives Friday Prayer Sermon

LD031321 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Excerpts] The various strata of the ever-struggling Muslim people with their massive presence at Tehran University today observed the unity-imparting Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran's ad interim Friday imam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani in his second sermon said: During the coming year, the Islamic Consultative Assembly has a great deal of work to do in connection with legislation and, thanks to its experience during the past 3 years, it has gained tremendous capability in this area.

Referring to the extremely important bills due to be debated in the Majlis, he said: The people's representatives should be more active in the Majlis. The people want to see their representatives among them more often and the combination of the two is rather difficult as the presence of the representatives in the Majlis is extremely necessary. The people, too, in order to secure their welfare interests, have expectations which are not the responsibility of the representatives. Therefore, our nation should accept that in the 1 year left of the first term of the Islamic Consultative Assembly the representatives should be able to concentrate more on the work of the Majlis.

Continuing his second sermon and expounding our society's social conditions on 5 June and the special points of the leadership of the imam of the Islamic nation, Tehran's ad interim Friday imam said: The imam has always made the proper decisions at the appropriate time. The imam always listens attentively to remarks made by others and when the time comes for making decisions he does not allow any vacillation to mar these decisions; he decides resolutely,he decides with conviction, and he will carry out his decision resolutely.

Tehran's ad interim Friday imam said: Some may think that the imam does not listen to anyone and acts unilaterally when this is not so. The imam reacts with wisdom and sagacity to the remarks and ideas of others and accepts principled remarks.

Tehran's ad interim Friday imam added: Another issue is that the Western media have disseminated propaganda that there are those who have influence with the imam; and this, too, is completely wrong, since we have not witnessed such problems in this life at a time when there are a great many people in the lives of world leaders who have influence on decisionmaking. However, in the house of the imam, no one exists who would influence the imam's decisionmaking nor does anyone entertain such a hope.

Addressing religious seminarians, Tehran's ad interim Friday imam then said: The imam's house contains the world's most powerful Islamic leader, and history, the houses of the ulema, and personalities point to the fact that the imam's house enjoys lofty and unique characteristics.

Tehran's ad interim Friday imam then referred to the Turkish forces' entry into Iraq: It is not clear what the real aim behind the Turkish forces' entry into Iraqi soil is. This is indeed abjection

for the Iraqi regime to agree to an army of a country entering its soil in this manner and is a sign of the feebleness of the Iraqi regime and the exit of Saddam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani devoted the first prayer sermon to a discussion of social justice at the time of the emergence of the holy imam of the era, who is the master of the entire world and the hope of the world deprived.

At the conclusion of his sermons today, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani read a sermon in the Arabic addressed to our Arab sisters and brothers.

IRNA Reports on Sermon

LD031622 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Text] Tehran, June 3, IRNA — Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iran's speaker of the Majlis, said in this week's Friday prayers ceremony here that the entering of Turkish troops into Iraqi territory was "one of the ugliest incidents in recent history." He said many reasons had been given for this incident including that the Iraqi regime was dying out.

He said it was not clear how deep the Turkish troops had gone into Iraqi territory "5 kms, 2 kms, or 30 kms." The objective of this operation, he added, had also been reported in different ways, "suppression of the Kurds, protecting the oil pipes, and making a footstep for the future in Iraq and waiting for the Ba'thist rule to die. We don't know. Many things could be interpreted from this."

"But," Rafsanjani said, "two countries, one of them is a member of NATO, meaning the Western bloc, and another with claims that it only had relations with the East...two countries with these specifications, and with territorial disputes, because Turkey has claims over some Iraqi territory, it comes to a point where the Turkish Army enters Iraqi territory and they (the Iraqis) do not dare to object and are forced in a situation to say that they were willing (for this to happen) or even say the truth and say that they (the Iraqis) were really in favour of this.

"This is either a disgrace, meaning that they are so weak that in order to suppress their own opponents they resort to an army of a country which has territorial claims against it, or it is being a puppet and the United states has ordered such a thing to happen, or it is something which will gradually be revealed. In the end, we don't see any rational justification for this...it might be too early for us to judge and we must wait and we are following the incident very closely. We will speak out are [as received] next words on this when it is necessary.

"In any case, this should be seen as a sign of weakness and a sign of the day that Saddam is going. We don't know how long he may last but we will wait until that time," he said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said in the continuation of his sermon that on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the June 5th uprising, the government had published the discussions of the shah's Cabinet done on the evening of June 5th 1963. He said the documents revealed the fear of the shah's regime of the peoples uprising and sought ways to suppress it. Speaking about the events on that day, he said he and 50 other religious students were in military service at the time and they had turned their barracks, located in Tehran, into a mosque with anti-shah speeches for the soldiers.

He said if the uprising had been directed properly, the Islamic Revolution would have taken place at that time. He said when Imam Khomeyni was imprisoned, the movement was severed from its leadership and therefore ended with the forced-exile of the imam to Turkey and later to Iraq.

Rafsanjani then spoke about Imam Khomeyni's unique personality and said that during the 30 years he had been with the imam as a student and follower, he had never seen a weak or vague point in his personality.

The imam listened to the statements and views of others and then made a decision, which was a kind of consultation, and when he makes a decision for an action, he does not allow any doubt to enter his mind ... the news and reports of various events in the country reaches the imam through various means ... I state it here that the main decisionmaker of general issues such as the war and others is the imam himself, he said.

In his sermon on social justice and Islamic ideology, he spoke about the philosophy of Imam Mahdi (AS), the 12th imam of the household of the prophet (SAW), and said all divine religions believed in a savior and have forseen the establishment of a divine rule throughout the world. He said it seemed that the subject was one which existed in man's very nature.

Rafsanjani said that there were more than 200 Sunni religious scholars who thought similar to the shah's in this respect.

He said when Imam Mahdi (AS), becomes apparent in this world, narrations from renowned scholars stated that the level of scientific knowledge would reach a point where man would lay hand on all of God's blessings on earth. He added that all that time, justice would prevail in the world and the earth would be cleared of oppression.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,335

LD031721 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,355 issued by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, yesterday, fighting on the western fronts of the country continued with sporadic exchanges of fire between the combatants of Islam and enemy forces. One enemy machinegun, two bulldozers, and one truck carrying soldiers were destroyed. A number of Iraqi military personnel were killed.

In the Marivan region, our powerful combatants fired on enemy units situated on the other side of the border, destroying a number

of troop trenches and heavy and light weapon emplacements. Also, a number of enemy forces were killed or wounded.

In the Paveh region, the forces of Islam returned enemy fire and opened intensive fire on enemy defensive positions.

Yesterday, our combatants stationed on the southern fronts of the country opened fire on gathering points, communications and supply routes belonging to the Saddamist mercenaries and inflicted damage and casualties on the enemy. Combat units stationed along the Arvand Rud opened fire on enemy positions to the west of the Arvand Rud, setting fire to five individual and collective entrenchments and halting the enemy's engineering activities.

Yesterday, the Saddamist criminals opened fire with their long range weapons on Abadan and Khorramshahr. As a result, two people were injured in Abadan and several places were set on fire in Khorramshahr.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,336

LD041800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,336 issued by Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. By honoring the 15th of Khordad [5 June] and presenting congratulations and condolences to the presence of the imam of the nation, the great leader of the revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all dear compatriots and selfless combatants of the warfronts of right against the devil, the situation on the battlefronts is:

Yesterday, sporadic artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on most of the country's western fronts with the Mehran front experiencing more intensive fire. Our forces' fire on enemy personnel and weapons, especially artillery positions, halted the Iraqi forces' artillery activities, movements, and other activities. By destroying a number of enemy foxholes and bunkers, our forces succeeded in killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers.

In the Marivan region, the army's powerful artillery continued to fire on Iraqi positions. Our army's artillery halted the fire of the Saddamists' artillery and inflicted considerable damage on the mercenaries' positions at Khormalu and Panjwin.

In the Paveh region, the valiant Gendarmerie opened relatiatory fire on enemy positions and observation posts. Our forces killed a number of Iraqi infantry personnel and observers and destroyed five Iraqi forces' bunkers and observation posts.

On the southern fronts, the able warriors of Islam continued to defend their regions and positions. By sending patrol groups and opening defensive fire, they brought Iraqi forces' operational activities under control and inflicted losses and casualties.

During the exchange of fire on the Abadan and Khoramshahr fronts and across the Arvand Rud between the warriors of Islam and the mercenaries of Saddam, our forces destroyed more than eight Iraqi forces' light and heavy weapons positions, together with their occupants, and set two Iraqi fuel dumps on fire.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,337

LD051717 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Jun 83

[Communique No 1,337 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The results of the self-sacrifices of the combatants of Islam on the fronts of the imposed war are brought to the attention of the dear compatiots.

Sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued on most of the western fronts yesterday. Our forces continued further reinforcing their defensive positions, and by dispatching reconnaissance groups kept the movements of the Iraqi forces under control and observation. Our forces' heavy fire destroyed three tanks, a 106-mm gun, a cannon, and several personnel and weapons emplacements of the Saddamists. The Iraqi forces also suffered casualties on those fronts.

On the Marivan front, the artillery fire of the Ground Forces combatants destroyed or badly damaged a number of Iraqi mortars, slit trenches, and foxholes.

In the (Kalb) sector in Iraq, the combatants of Islam set fire to parts of Iraqi logistic installations; the fire lasted several hours.

On the southern fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued between our victorious forces and the aggressor, Ba'thist mercenaries of Iraq; the defenders and trenchdwellers of Islam, while defending their positions and returning fire, silenced enemy fire and inflicted losses and casualties.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, Gendarmerie combatants fired on enemy positions and fortifications on the other side of theArvand Rud, destroying a number of trenches together with their crews. The Saddamist criminals fired on Abadan again yesterday, injuring a dear compatriot and damaging more than 10 houses and shops.

During the past 24 hours, an aggressor Iraqi plane, intending to violate our country's airspace in one of the western border regions, was forced to flee by the tactical measures taken by the fighter planes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran